GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1378
ANSWERED ON:23.07.2002
POOR CONDITION OF FARMERS ON BORDER
AMAR ROY PRADHAN

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has received requests from various residents of Coochbehar (West Bengal) and people representatives during the period 1.1.2000 and 31.7.2002 regarding poor conditions of landless agricultural labours due to wrongly erected Indo-Bangladesh Border fencing and rehabilitation of these Indian citizens in mainland of Indian Territory:

(b) if so, the details of such requests; and

(c) the action taken or proposed to be taken on the demands of the residents/representatives of people till date?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH.VIDYASAGAR RAO)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. The border fence on the Indo-Bangladesh border has been constructed at a minimum distance of about 150 yards from the zero line in terms of the Joint India-Bangladesh Guidelines for Border Authorities - 1975.As a result, several villages, including Bananhat Gram Panchayat, P.S. Dinhata, Coochbehar, West Bengal, which are situated on or near the zero line along the international border fall ahead of the border fencing.

In order to reduce the hardship of the villagers, gates have been provided at regular intervals along the fence. These gates are opened three times during the day in consultation with the local population as per their requirements taking the season as well as the timings of schools into consideration. The Border Security Force also maintains regular patrolling ahead of the fencing both during day and night in order to inculcate a sense of security amongst the residents of such villages.